



Orange County District Attorney

Press Release

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District Attorney Closes Case Involving Jail Beating

SANTA ANA – The District Attorney's Office has closed its inquiry into the beating of a jail inmate on Dec. 29, 1999.

No charges will be filed against four deputies who were alleged to have pushed and kicked inmate Leonel Vega (DOB 4-10-80) in a secluded area of the jail. Vega, who was awaiting trial on a narcotics possession case, sustained severe groin injuries and required hospitalization.

The Sheriff's Department conducted the initial investigation and all four deputies invoked their right to remain silent on grounds that their answers would be self-incriminating. This caused the District Attorney's Office to bring the matter before the grand jury in an effort to obtain information. Fourteen witnesses were subpoenaed between Sept. 12, 2000 and Jan. 17, 2001.

At this time, prosecutors do not have enough evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt who committed the beating, therefore no charges will be filed.

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